

NEEDS OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY*

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IN this symposium on military medicine, first will be sketched the opportunities for service now available in the branch of the United States Navy, which I represent.

All applicants receive careful physical examinations and a large proportion are rejected for physical defects. Waivers of the less serious defects are recommended, especially for the older and more experienced specialists and technicians, but there is no present intention to materially lower our physical requirements.

ENLISTMENTS IN HOSPITAL CORPS

Young men without special training, between the ages of 17 and 31 years, are enlisted in the Navy as Apprentice Seamen and sent to Naval Training Stations. Those who prefer Hospital Corps work, and are recommended for it, are sent to a Hospital Corps Training School for nine weeks (normally three months, but reduced during the emergency). They then go to a Naval Hospital, where their training is continued until they are considered qualified for sea duty.

Training and examinations for promotion continue throughout enlistment, and most of them become petty officers, and many of them excellent technicians in a few years.

Enlistments in the Hospital Corps of the Naval Reserve are available in all ratings and a great many are needed during this emergency expansion.

Applicants must be between 17 and 50 years old. Those who have had experience equivalent to a Junior Red Cross First Aid course, are enlisted as Hospital Apprentices, first class. Those with experience in minor surgery, or as hospital orderlies and qualified medical technicians, are eligible for the rating of Pharmacist's Mate, third class.

Enlistments as Pharmacist's Mates, second class, are limited to college graduates, qualified medical technicians, graduate male nurses and graduates in pharmacy.

Enlistments as Pharmacist's Mates, first class, and Chief Pharmacist's Mates, are limited to applicants who have had previous experience in the Hospital Corps of the Navy or the Army.

COMMISSIONS

Junior and senior medical and dental students, who are physically qualified and in good standing, are commissioned as Ensigns in Class H-V(P) of the Naval Reserve. This will permit them to complete their medical school training, unless the need for their services becomes too urgent. This opportunity is not extended to first- and second-year students, but their deferment is almost certain.

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Class H-V(S) of the Naval Reserve has been established for college graduates who have specialized in subjects related to medicine. Commissions in this class are available as Ensigns, Junior Lieutenants and Lieutenants, depending on the age and number of years of experience.

A limited number of the following specialists will receive commissions in this class: Psychologists and psychophysiologists, optometrists, pharmacists, chemists, podiatrists, industrial hygienists, entomologists, malariologists, public health bacteriologists, serologists, environmental physiologists, parasitologists, helminthologists, biostatisticians and physicists.

Graduate nurses, between the ages of 22 and 28 years, are appointed as Nurses, U. S. Navy, as rapidly as they are found qualified. Nurses between the ages of 22 and 45 are eligible for appointment as Reserve Nurses.

Commissions as Lieutenants (junior grade) are available in the United States Navy, after physical and professional examinations, and between the ages of 21 and 32 years, for graduate dentists as Assistant Dental Surgeons, for medical graduates as Acting Assistant Surgeons, and for those who have also completed an internship as Assistant Surgeons.

The next examination for Assistant Surgeons will be held from October 6 to 9, at our larger Naval hospitals. That for Acting Assistant Surgeons from October 6 to 9, and that for Assistant Dental Surgeons has not been announced.

Commissions as Lieutenant (Junior grade) in the Medical and Dental Corps of the Naval Reserve for general service are available, without professional examinations, to licensed practitioners between the ages of 21 and 35 years.

Commissions for recognized specialists are available for those under fifty years old, and in the ranks of Lieutenant Commander and below, depending on age and experience.

The chief needs of the Medical Department of the Navy at the present time are for qualified medical and dental technicians in the enlisted ratings, for Doctors of Psychology, in Class H-V(S) of the Naval Reserve, for graduate nurses and for Medical Officers.

Last month there were on active duty 911 Medical Officers, United States Navy, 75 Retired Medical Officers and 514 Reserve Medical Officers, and 200 additional Reserve Medical Officers were under orders to active duty.

We needed 420 more Medical Officers, United States Navy, and 300 Acting Assistant Surgeons, to take internships in our Naval Hospitals, and then accept commissions as Regular or Reserve Medical Officers.

We also need more Reserve Medical Officers for general service, and a number of experienced specialists in pathology, roentgenology, surgery, urology, orthopedics, psychiatry, ophthalmology and otolaryngology, to complete our Naval Medical Specialist Units.

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